

*Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government*



FY 2008

Dominican Republic  
Full Performance Plan and Report

## Operating Unit Summary

### Narrative:

In FY 2008, the Dominican Republic (DR) continued to be a reliable supporter of democracy in the Caribbean and Latin America and, accordingly, an important bulwark against anti-American populism in the Hemisphere. While this is true, government institutions remain weak, ineffective and under funded. Organized criminal activity, including drug trafficking, and endemic corruption continue to present threats to the perpetuation of democracy and to sustained economic development in the Dominican Republic.

USG assistance to the DR in FY 2008 can be characterized by transitions and consolidation. Over the course of the year, USAID assistance (the bulk of the USG foreign assistance program in the Dominican Republic) transitioned to a new set of implementing mechanisms in three foreign assistance objectives and closed out the remnants of activities from the previous strategic period. The new mechanisms are consolidating best practices and lessons learned and building upon program successes to increase the benefits to the neediest populations in the DR. In FY 2009, the transition and consolidation that began toward the tail end of FY 2007 will be complete as a few remaining mechanisms are currently being established.

In Peace and Security, the US Embassy, through a variety of coordinated efforts, has worked hand in hand with the police, military and justice systems to address the security concerns facing the Dominican Republic to prevent the entry of illegal drugs, illegal migrants and terrorists into the United States. Results during FY 2008 were extremely positive; however, much work needs to be done especially given the low level of government funding for and capacity of the Dominican police and military forces.

In Governing Justly and Democratically, in the transition period between a strategy close out and awarding new mechanisms, USAID continued to achieve success in promoting democracy in the Dominican Republic, demonstrated by significant advances in establishing the foundations of an effective judicial system, increased citizen activism in the areas of corruption and transparency, and serious public discussion on key political issues. USAID assistance in implementing a new model of court and case management provided the basis for institutionalizing the Criminal Procedures Code, increasing transparency of justice sector institutions, and the procedurally correct conclusion to the trial of the perpetrators of the 2003 banking fraud that resulted in prosecution and substantial jail sentences.

In Investing in People, USAID continues to lead health sector improvements in the Dominican Republic through comprehensive and significant contributions to government efforts to provide all Dominicans with access to equitable, quality health care. As one of the most important contributors to the HIV/AIDS program, USAID helped improve all aspects of the continuum of HIV/AIDS response from prevention to care, with the involvement of other USG government partners, notably Peace Corps, DOD and CDC. The Ministry of Health has adopted the USAID-sponsored obstetric emergency care program and expanded it nationally. USAID, in support of the health sector reform, enabled Health Region V to serve as a training ground for improved management strategies. Management tools and experiences developed in this region, coupled with strong technical assistance, continue to improve health coverage for poor populations in the region and increasing access to the GODR family health insurance program. In Education, USAID interventions supporting Dominican primary level teacher training in mathematics, reading and writing has witnessed very positive results. Such that GODR has provided resources to expand the reading and writing program nationwide.

In Economic Growth, the USAID trade and investment program made progress in strengthening public and private sector capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. Support to small producers and processors of agricultural and wood products focused on increasing income through opportunities created by CAFTA-DR and increasing access to credit, grant funding and technical assistance. To this end, USAID established a small grants fund to co-finance small projects for the clusters, along with a \$10 million Development Credit Authority (DCA) loan guarantee program to improve access to credit for small farmers, processors and buyers. USAID technical assistance in the

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energy sector helped increase access to reliable electricity for low-income Dominicans living in rural areas and established a sustainable electricity program for these groups, 44,070 people benefited from these programs and 15 public-private partnerships were established. USAID advanced sustainable tourism practices in the Dominican Republic through its support of nine civil-society-led community based tourism clusters.

**1 Peace and Security**

## **1.1 Counter-Terrorism**

### **1.1.3 Governments Capabilities**

## **1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform**

There were significant advances in this program area during FY2008. All targets associated with training and institutionalizing reforms in the Dominican National Police (DNP) were either met or exceeded and based on recommendations from the embassy, the incumbent Chief of Police remained in his position to continue overseeing the programs as they were implemented. This was important as history had shown when there was a change at the top, often priorities were also changed and this frequently had a negative impact on programs under way. In the Administrative area, the NAS Director position that had been vacant for two years was finally filled in the third quarter and the NAS Program Assistant position that had been vacant for seven months was filled in the second quarter of FY2008. The sole NAS employee was the Personal Service Contractor (PSC) Law Enforcement Development Advisor (LEDA); therefore, efforts were focused primarily on Law Enforcement Restructuring, Reform and Operations.

FY 2008 was extremely productive for the Dominican Republic Armed Forces. 2008 was election year for Dominican Republic with President Fernandez winning reelection. Subsequently President Fernandez named the Chief of staff of the Dominican Republic Air Force to become the Ministry of Defense who has been exposed to US military training and is a strong supporter of US programs.

The transshipment of illegal narcotics through the Dominican Republic continues to be a significant problem with amounts expected to increase from 110 metric tons in 2007 to 240 metric tons in 2008 with greater increases in years to follow which will result in increased crime and border concerns.

IMET resources primary focus was the exposure of military leaders to US processes and procedures in order to professionalize the DR military force. The focus is on promoting civilian control of the military, military respect for human rights and regional cooperation.

### **1.3.6 Defense, Military, and Border Restructuring, Reform and Operations**

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The first indicator for improved performance is aimed at the control of the ungoverned spaces in order to prevent illegal drug trafficking and transnational threats common to both the US and the Dominican Republic. The unpredictability in these geographic areas is an obstacle that must be overcome; however, in general there have been improvements in Dominican military efforts to govern these spaces, such as the acquisition of Super Tucano aircraft from Brazil and the increasing training in the areas of counter terrorism and counter narcotics.

The second indicator is aimed at the Dominican Armed Forces "force multiplier" regional capacity and in partnership with U.S. Forces in missions of regional interest, hence the need to expose their leaders to professional military education in order to promote regional initiatives and democratic values. The US MAAG in the DR is on the right track with this indicator as Dominican Armed Forces increasingly are taking part in regional and global projects such as Enduring Friendship and peacekeeping operation initiatives.

Territorial Security: A total of 60 students were trained in the US utilizing IMET funds and a total of 40 students were trained utilizing Mobile training teams coming into country paid by the IMET program. Out of these 100 students, 54 students were successfully trained in areas that directly or indirectly support controlling ungoverned spaces. Counter drug operations, engine technicians, joint operations, flight safety, instrument procedures, logistics and supply, maritime officer and patrol craft boats were courses attended during this year. Many courses are related to the maintenance and operation of the airplanes/helicopters as well as "fast boats" provided under Enduring Friendship utilized in patrolling the coasts.

Civil military Engagement: A total of 33 students were successfully trained in areas that directly or indirectly supported the interoperability of the Dominican Republic with partner nations the promotion of human rights and peacekeeping initiatives. The Development of a new Military Strategy will eventually call for the promulgation of human rights and will approach the acceptance of civilians in command of the Armed Forces. Courses like Intermediate Level Education, Captain Careers, Civil Military Operations, NCO professional development, Peace Operations, Air Mission Commander, Joint Operations, Instructor Training, Human Rights Instructor, Rule of Law and Discipline, Squadron Officer School, Naval Command College and Naval Staff College were courses attended in pursuit of achieving Armed forces capable of transparent procedures, civilian control and civil military relations.

**Standard Indicators**

**Name:** Number of US trained personnel at national leadership levels

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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0	133		
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** Targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 are currently being developed.

**1.3.7 Law Enforcement Restructuring, Reform and Operations**

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The 30,000 plus man DNP was a police force that lacked many of the basic skills required to do their job. In addition, long term planning was basically unheard of and the DNP reacted to events as they occurred. Also, the facilities and equipment required by the DNP were either not available or in poor condition. The targets for this element were to initiate one hundred community policing programs, train 3,000 law enforcement officers, conduct five programs to enhance police management and equip and either build or refurbish two law enforcement facilities.

Community based police projects were instituted in one hundred communities as follows: Santiago – 32; East Santo Domingo – 12; North Santo Domingo – 17; and 39 in Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional. To assist the DNP in establishing their Community Based Police program, NAS brought in a Colombian National Police (CNP) officer to help establish viable training programs which will instill a better sense of cooperation between residents of the communities and the police assigned to protect them. NAS found that by using third country nationals from other areas of Latin America, a better rapport was established as the professionals from these different countries shared experiences and jointly resolved problems. Among the successes in this area was program involving Major League Baseball. The Dominican youth are avid baseball fans and have many Dominican-American baseball heroes playing for teams such as the New York Yankees. NAS assisted in supporting a program where the Yankees helped establish a little league program in barrios thus helping to build a rapport with youth that may otherwise have gotten involved in delinquent activities. The goals for FY2009 are to continue solidifying the existing Community Police programs with training, completing the equipping of Law Enforcement facilities, identifying additional communities to start other programs and enhance the concept of involving youth in wholesome activities such as Little League Baseball.

During FY2008, 3,239 Dominican police officers received training in basic and advanced police techniques. This success is largely due to the assistance NAS provided via direct involvement and through the technical assistance provided by a Honduran National Police (HNP) officer who was brought to the Dominican Republic by NAS for one year to lend technical assistance to training academy staff and instructors in the development of a well structured Training Coordinator's office at both DNP training academies. Of special note in this area is the assistance this HNP officer provided in uncovering a case of corruption where the Director of one of the police academies was implicated in a kickback scheme where cadets had to pay high sums of money for laundry service which led to instructors receiving kickbacks. The cadets were also charged for training supplies and materials. Through the HNP officers' assistance, the NAS LEDA stopped all assistance and then contacted the Chief of the DNP which ultimately resulted in the removal of the Academy Director and implicated instructors. In FY2009 NAS plans to continue this training program by training up to 2000 additional officers and providing equipment as needed to ensure the training facilities are adequately equipped.

The goal for FY2008 was to conduct five programs that would enhance police management and effectiveness. This goal was exceeded as six programs were conducted with NAS assistance. These were institutionalizing a Police Planning Unit, the Academy Seguridad Ciudadana, initiating Money Laundering Training/Assistance, creating a DNP Micro-Trafficking Unit, enhancing Police Communications and setting-up a viable DNP Internal Affairs Unit. The police planning unit in particular achieved significant success with the assistance of a CNP officer who was brought here from Colombia for a three month period to assist the DNP. With this assistance the Planning Unit developed a four year institutional strategic plan. It is the first time in history that the police will guide themselves via a strategic plan. The goal for FY2009 is to continue working with the Planning Unit to ensure progress towards the goals is tracked and adjusted as needed.

NAS anticipated goal of building or refurbishing and equipping two law enforcement facilities was also exceeded. During FY2008, NAS assistance resulted in four facility improvements as follows and the purchase of laptop computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, desktop computers and audio visual equipment. This equipment was used to enhance the capabilities of the Police Planning Unit, the Academy Coordinator's office and refurbishing two classrooms at Academy Seguridad Ciudadana, the Money Laundering Unit and

The 30,000 plus man DNP was a police force that lacked many of the basic skills required to do their job. In a

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of communities in USG-assisted areas using community policing methods

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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100	100	100	
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of law enforcement officers trained with USG assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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3000	3239	2000	
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

## 1.5 Transnational Crime

Although there were substantial advances and progress in the program element associated with money laundering, there were little to no activities associated with the program element associated with Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling. The primary reason for this is summarized under the above comments in program element 1.3.9 – Administration and Oversight. That is, the lack of manning in the NAS precluded initiating active programs in this area; therefore, there is nothing to report for Program Element 1.5.3 Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling. The goal for FY2009 in this area is to work with other embassy agencies and responsible Dominican agencies to establish basic Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling programs.



### 1.5.1 Financial Crimes and Money Laundering

Through NAS provided assistance via an expert money laundering consultant, the Dominican Republic developed a money laundering training course for prosecutors and police investigators. During FY2008, 36 prosecutors were trained in the first three modules of the six module course. Also, 20 police investigators were trained in the first module. The six module course of 40 hours per module cover pertinent topics such as: Role of Prosecutors in Money Laundering, Money Laundering Law 72-02, Concepts of Money Laundering, Stages of Money Laundering, Financial Analysis, and more. The consultant also provided technical assistance to prosecutors on a one-on-one basis on several on-going investigations and prosecutions. The most notable case during FY2008 was the seizure of approximately \$30 million dollars in property associated with a major Medicare fraud case in the United States. NAS assistance in the seizure of these properties received praise from both the host government and embassy based law enforcement agencies. The goal for FY2009 is to renew the contract with the NAS consultant and continue with the training program by having the initial 56 prosecutors and police investigators complete all six training modules.

#### Standard Indicators

<b>Name:</b>	Number of people in host country trained on money laundering or financial crimes		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
No Data	56	56	
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			

## 2 Governing Justly and Democratically

## **2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights**

Assistance within the program area strove to promote the rule of law by helping institutionalize rules and procedures and make simpler, more transparent, and more comprehensible the processes by which the rule of law operates in the Dominican Republic. Inter-institutional coordination among the Judiciary, Public Ministry, and the National Police, both at the policy level and with regard to specific cases, became more apparent. Nevertheless, USAID faced severe funding restrictions in the last year of its current strategy implementation that limited implementation of activities to the first six months of the fiscal year. Budget cuts experienced in FY2006 forced the Mission to backfill with FY2007 funding, the consequence of which meant fewer resources available for implementation in FY2008. However, in July, a new justice assistance program was awarded and is now set to begin full implementation as FY2009 begins. In addition, Dominican justice sector institutions continued to be under funded, receiving budgets that were significantly less than mandated by law. These shortfalls impinged on the institutions' ability to move forward as rapidly as might have been hoped. Performance against the World Bank's Governance Matters Rule of Law indicator faltered, slipping from a score of -0.52 to -0.55, as the DR fell to a percentile rank of 37.4 from 41.0. Similarly, on the MCC scorecard, the DR tumbled from the 50th percentile among other low income countries to 40th percentile. Nevertheless, leadership within the justice sector remained strong as the institutions demonstrated their commitment to implementing needed reforms and doing more with less. The new contract to support implementation of justice reforms will capitalize on this leadership, and a new civil society program, awarded in October 2008, will create incentives for continued reforms by improving access to information, conducting oversight, and providing civil society inputs to the reforms process. This program will also track gender differences in how cases are conducted, tried, and decided.

### **2.1.3 Justice System**

USAID support continued to focus on the implementation of the Criminal Procedures Code. USAID helped establish, in Santiago, a component of the court management model, an office of permanent attention, which provides access to a judge on a 24-hour basis. USAID also worked with the Judiciary, the Public Ministry, and the Public Defense as they each replicated the model in other judicial districts. The Public Ministry expanded the number of district attorney offices with the management model from 9 to 13; replication of the model in an additional 14 offices is currently underway. The Public Defense also added 4 offices with the management model for a total of 11. In just three months, from October until December 2007, the Public Defense provided assistance to 4,654 persons without the means to provide for their own defense. Statistics for 2008 are not yet available. The Judiciary expanded the model to Santo Domingo Province, a significant advance as it is the first of the Dominican Republic's three largest judicial districts to adopt the model. The Attorney General's Office oversaw the continued rapid expansion of the USAID-supplied case-tracking system, Justice XXI, from 7 to 18 district attorney offices. These advances were achieved in the absence of any continuing assistance mechanism and are directly due to USAID's ongoing partnership with the Public Ministry. With USAID assistance, the Attorney General's Office also established the National Department of the Public Ministry, responsible for the design of the first Career Plan for Prosecutors, which created a career path that prosecutors must follow. For the first time ever, public prosecutors underwent a rigorous performance evaluation that will become an annual process.

USAID's partner institutions in the justice sector made advances implementing the Institutional Integrity System (SII) to promote transparency and control corruption within the justice sector. From October 2007 to March 2008, 1,216 employees in the justice sector, including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, defense lawyers, and administrative staff, attended seminars and received training regarding SII and how it is to work in the justice system.

The two justice centers established with USAID assistance in Santo Domingo and Santiago provided services to 4,680 persons. Interestingly, the two centers demonstrated opposite trends with regard to gender: in Santo Domingo, 66% of those served were women, while only 44% were in Santiago. The services include access to conciliation and mediation, public defense lawyers, community liaison services, family and community mediation services, legal orientation and consumer rights protection. By far, the two services most used were conciliation and mediation (42% and 44%), indicating the great need in these locations for dispute resolution mechanisms. As part of efforts to make the program sustainable, USAID provided technical assistance to support follow-on actions to commitments made by the Dominican authorities during a summit of government stakeholders of the Justice Center (Casas Comunitarias de Justicia) Program. A wide swath of Dominican authorities made commitments during this summit and have complied with such commitments, including the municipality of Santo Domingo, the commissioner for reform of justice, the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office, the district attorneys of Santo Domingo Province and Santiago, the Public Defense, Participación Ciudadana and the Dominican Institute for Telecommunications. Their actions included paying for the personnel, long-term overhead costs, and building and infrastructure. Using a grant-under-contract mechanism, USAID will work to ensure that state and local institutions become further vested in sustaining the two centers already created and that these institutions develop a plan for establishing new houses where they are needed.

### Standard Indicators

<b>Name:</b>	Number of Justice Sector Personnel that Received USG Training		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
0	1216		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	New justice contractor is in the process of negotiating targets with its government counterparts.		

<b>Name:</b>	Number of Legal Aid Groups and Law Clinics Assisted by USG		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
No Data	6		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	New justice contractor is in the process of negotiating targets with its government counterparts.		

<b>Name:</b>	Number of people visiting USG supported legal service centers serving low income and marginalized communities		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
0	19, 565		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	New justice contractor is in the process of negotiating targets with its government counterparts.		

<b>Name:</b>	Number of women		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
3000	3710		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			

## **2.2 Good Governance**

USAID programs in anti-corruption continued to demonstrate advances, even though the overall environment shows mixed signs of progress. On the one hand, the government demonstrated significant political will by doggedly pursuing those responsible for the Baninter case, the largest of the 2003 bank frauds, asking for and getting a guilty verdict with the maximum sentence for three of four defendants, and sending them to jail. This alone was a tremendous achievement, and civil society organizations supported by USAID played a key role. This case was iconic of the achievements made in prosecuting corruption: 17 corruption cases came to final decisions, double the expected target. In addition, the Congress, in response to a growing corruption scandal within the Court of Accounts, investigated the case and then removed all nine members. On the other hand, the government mysteriously dropped another bank fraud case that was to go before the Supreme Court and that it had already won at two lower courts. [After the end of the fiscal year, the Supreme Court rejected the Public Ministry's request to drop the case and confirmed the lower courts verdicts.] Some major scandals involving officials from the current administration went uninvestigated. The country remained lethargic with respect to international measurements of corruption. The DR showed essentially no movement against the World Bank's Control of Corruption indicator, languishing around -0.65 at the 32nd percentile, and on the MCC scorecard they moved up minimally two percentile points against their income peers to the 30th percentile. This was a continuation of a steady decline since 2002, which contrasts with an equal incline for the region as a whole. The DR's score on Transparency International's Corruptions Perceptions Index remained unchanged at 3.0. As a result, prospects for an MCC threshold agreement dimmed.

USAID provided support for the continuation of an anticorruption campaign aimed at both promoting increased awareness of corruption and the forms it takes as well as informing citizens of the tools available to them to combat corruption. These tools included access to public information as well as participatory budgeting at the municipal level. The La Lucha campaign expanded from around thirty organizations to a nationwide network of over 200, with a presence in some 28 municipalities. While anticorruption networks existed before, this was the first that established a significant presence outside the capital of Santo Domingo. The challenge will be to maintain the momentum of the network under the mission's new transparency strategy. While outright government leadership to fight corruption has been scarce, some key institutions, such as the Customs Office, the Directorate General of Public Procurement, and the Comptroller General's Office, have champions for transparency and accountability at the helm, and USAID's new activities in this area are set to take advantage of these opportunities.

The primary obstacle facing program implementation during this period was the altered political environment caused by the presidential election. In particular, public sector participation was restrained and cautious, in most cases. Governmental political will was unclear and institutional strengthening activities took time and persuasion, and oftentimes they went off-track because government officials were distracted by campaign duties. The program, with Mission support, was flexible in the selection of recipient institutions where there was some demonstration of political will. The elections affected the La Lucha campaign activities, as the first phase of the campaign was halted due to Embassy concerns about perceptions that the campaign could affect the electoral outcome. Moreover, the second phase was delayed until after election day, which diminished the possibility of the second phase to build effectively on the enthusiasm generated by the first.

#### **2.2.4 Anti-Corruption Reforms**

Significant progress was made by USAID civil society partners in their efforts to raise awareness, conduct oversight of government programs, and utilize new tools and mechanisms available to them to keep government honest and control corruption. The La Lucha website ([www.lalucha.com.do](http://www.lalucha.com.do)) tripled the number of hits after the mass media campaign was initiated. The organizations united under the La Lucha campaign banner also joined forces with the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU). In less than six months, they drafted and adopted a set of regulations for municipalities to create a citizen participation model, designed to implement tools for citizen participation established in the Law of Municipalities, ranging from town hall meetings and public hearings to referenda and legislative initiatives to participatory budgeting. So far, two municipalities approved the model and five others signed agreements to analyze and approve them through their City Councils.

USAID-supported civil society groups continued to demand transparency as well as an end to impunity in corruption cases. Participación Ciudadana (PC), which this year achieved the status as local chapter for Transparency International largely due in large part to its programs supported by USAID, led the effort that ensured transparency in the proceedings of the Baninter bank fraud case. Despite a ruthless media campaign by allies of the fraud perpetrators, PC stayed the course, continuously reporting on progress and events in the case. Given the past history of corruption cases, it can be fairly said that without this effort undertaken by PC and other groups, the outcome of the case would have been different, or it might even have been dropped.

Participación Ciudadana undertook an analysis of the government's implementation of the law requiring government officials to complete declarations of their assets and found that only about 10 percent of eligible government workers had submitted the form, and often with incorrect or inaccurate information. The results of the study were widely published and generated a heated debate among a variety of different social sectors and a demand for greater accountability from government officials and compliance with the law. A direct line can be drawn from PC's report and the government recently establishing a deadline for all eligible officials to submit the requisite information or have their wages withheld.

While in general assistance to government institutions, such as the Public Ministry's Office for the Prosecution of Corruption and the National Ethics Commission has not borne much fruit, USAID had greater effectiveness with an activity to carry out a mapping exercise that charted risks and vulnerabilities for corruption in two ports and the passport agency. USAID carried out studies of each and developed corruption mitigation plans. While the plans must still be implemented, the customs and passport offices have adopted them as their own. Indeed, the study of the Caucedo Port, the country's model for modernized operations, identified such critical risks that the port administrator was removed from his position. USAID expects to assist with the implementation of the proposed mitigation plan for the ports as part of its new transparency program.

The government progressed in establishing Access to Public Information (FOIA) Offices, though at a much slower pace than anticipated. USAID supported this effort by helping install three FOIA offices that met all the requirements of the law, based on the model office USAID helped establish in the Attorney General's Office. However, Participación Ciudadana, in its third report on the implementation of the Access to Public Information Law, noted that not many advances over the last year had been made, inconsistent criteria were used for hiring office directors, and that the provision of information and the timeframes for providing it did not adhere to regulations.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of government officials receiving USG-supported anti-corruption training

<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
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0	155		
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** A new contractor selection process is underway and the targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 will be set when the process is complete.

**Name:** Number of women

<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
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No Data	820		
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** A new contractor selection process is underway and the targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 will be set when the process is complete.

**Name:** Number of men

<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
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No Data	735		
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** A new contractor selection process is underway and the targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 will be set when the process is complete.

**Name:** Number of USG-Supported Anti-corruption Measures Implemented

<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
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0			
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** A new contractor selection process is underway and the targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 will be set when the process is complete.

### Custom Indicators

<b>Name:</b>	Number of citizens trained in anti-corruption		
<b>Target 2008</b>	<b>Result 2008</b>	<b>Target 2009</b>	<b>Target 2010</b>
0	3480		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	In FY 2009, USAID will fund a new civil society program partially with anti-corruption resources and continue to track this custom indicator through this new program. Targets for FY 2009 and FY 2010 are currently being established with the new awardee.		

## 2.3 Political Competition and Consensus-Building

In May 2008, the Dominican Republic held elections that were judged by both local and international observers as generally transparent and fair, which continued the positive pattern since the constitutional reforms of 1994. The actual administration of the elections, which was fruit of technical assistance provided by USAID to the Junta Central Electoral over the last fifteen years, was extremely well engineered, meeting or exceeding deadlines at every stage. Even recognizing that there were some minor glitches on the day of the elections, most observers noted the stellar organization of the elections. In contrast, political parties conducted campaigns based on negative attacks, clientelistic tactics and promises, and party strategies devoid of issue content. Moreover, campaigns, when they could, utilized state resources with impunity. These two issues, along with political parties' lack of internal democracy, transparency and accountability, represent remaining major obstacles to elections that are truly democratic and representative.

In September, President Fernandez submitted a constitutional reform package, for which the government consulted widely among civil society organizations and citizens from around the country. USAID-supported civil society organizations actively provided inputs and advocated for particular reforms. In part due to these efforts, the constitutional reform gained greater legitimacy as the debate about what was needed grew. It is too soon to tell what the outcome will be, but the actions taken by USAID partners made it all but impossible for the government to push through a prefabricated reform, despite the dominance of the party in government within the Congress.

The 2008 elections were also a turning point for the political parties. On the one hand, although they were in their heyday during their campaigns, the elections and the campaign process brought to the fore the crisis that each party faced. Most affected was the former president Joaquin Balaguer's party, which fared extremely poorly and had to initiate a process of reorganization. The two major parties also faced their own challenges, evidenced by continuing internal spats and divisions. Through the USAID-sponsored the Political Management and Training Program party youth gained knowledge and skills to help their parties restructure themselves and address many of the issues they faced. USAID conducted an evaluation of the program as its first phase was drawing to a close, and the evaluation pointed to a number of adjustments – the need for more specialized courses, measuring the medium-term impact of the training, tracking the career trajectories of trainees, among others – that were used in the design of the second phase, set to begin in FY 2009.



### **2.3.2 Elections and Political Processes**

The USG support for the 2008 elections included both local and international observers. USOAS, along with the Canadian Embassy, paid the lion's share of an OAS observer mission. USAID funded the local observation effort led by Participación Ciudadana (PC). PC fielded 4,100 observers throughout the country, of whom 56% were women and 44% men. Both the OAS and local observers emitted reports that acknowledged the outstanding elections administration but they both noted a series of irregularities, with a particular focus on the blatant use state resources to conduct the campaigns. US support included a contribution of Embassy personnel who served as part of the OAS international observer team.

PC's observation consisted of three stages. The pre-electoral stage included monitoring the JCE to ensure that deadlines were met and decisions were not unfairly in favor of one party. PC also provided detailed reports on how parties conducted their campaigns, bringing to light a number of serious irregularities, including the use of state resources in favor of a particular campaign as well as clientelistic practices whereby the government provided unemployed members of a party a small monthly stipend, on the assumption that the recipient would vote government party's candidate. Working in conjunction with a well-known investigative lawyer, PC's report helped lead to a JCE ruling that shut down the pay-out program.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of Domestic Election Observers Trained with USG Assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
4000	4123		

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** The new USAID/GJD strategy does not include work with elections, so no targets will be set for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Name:** Number of women

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
2000	2308		

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** The new USAID/GJD strategy does not include work with elections, so no targets will be set for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Name:** Number of men

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
2000	1815		

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** The new USAID/GJD strategy does not include work with elections, so no targets will be set for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Name:** Number of International Election Observers Deployed with USG Assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
0	70		

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** The new USAID/GJD strategy does not include work with elections, so no targets will be set for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

*Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government*

<b>Name:</b>	Number of Election Officials Trained with USG Assistance		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
No Data			
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	Our civil society partner (PC) worked with the Central Electoral Board to improve the elections process but training to elections officials is done by the board.		

### 2.3.3 Political Parties

USAID continued its successful program aimed primarily at training young party leaders. The tripartite consortium that organized and carried out the training focused its program trained over 300 young political leaders, bringing the total over three years to 1093 people trained and certified. The program established a gender quota requiring one-third of participants be male or female; as a result, female graduates made up 35% of the graduates. One-seventh of the trainees belonged to civil society organizations. In order to reinforce the knowledge learned in the training, over a third of the graduates scored 80% or higher on the final exam. Some 60% of those trained proposed initiatives within their parties to impel democratic or management reforms.

The program organized complementary activities, such as inter-party and regional networks through which program graduates can learn from one another, share ideas, and establish contacts. An associated activity encouraged participants and program graduates to develop proposals for a political party law; afterwards, the students proposed their initiatives to the commission in the House of Deputies responsible for drafting the law. As a result of these activities, cross-party relationships have increased, leading to both improved understanding among party participants and the fertilization of ideas that could lead to broad support for reform and the mitigation of the crisis in which parties find themselves.

### Standard Indicators

<b>Name:</b>	Number of Individuals who Receive USG-Assisted Political Party Training		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
815	317		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	The target for FY 2008 was 300 trained political party leaders.		

<b>Name:</b>	Number of women		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
285	122		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			

<b>Name:</b>	Number of men		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
530	175		
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			

### 3 Investing in People

### 3.1 Health

USG contributed directly or indirectly to key overall sector accomplishments/progress during FY08. The program continues to support the strengthening of public and private service provider institutions and the implementation of the health sector reforms which will move the country in the right direction towards the achievement of MCC indicators, thus allowing the country to go from the development to the transformational stage. Data from the 2007 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) reveals that fertility and HIV rates in the general population appear to have stabilized. However, data also indicate there is cause for concern about the HIV epidemic in certain subgroups, particularly, poorly educated women and persons living on bateyes. Access to AIDS treatment has been gradually increasing. As of September 2008, approximately 10,504 adults and 795 children are receiving ARVs, representing an increase of 3,000 persons from FY2007. The DR is one of the six pilot countries for the implementation of the AIDS COMPACT, aiming at strengthening the countries leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition the DR's proposal to the 2nd round of the Global Fund Rolling Continuation Channel (RCC) was reviewed by the Technical Review Board and recommended for approval with conditions. This grant, a critical complement to USAID HIV/AIDS program, will provide the DR's HIV/AIDS National Response with \$98 million for a six-year period from 2009-2015. Although tuberculosis continues to be a major problem in the DR, the National Tuberculosis Program made important advances particularly in successfully treating the disease. Cure rates for TB have reached 86.6% (which exceeds by 1.6% the worldwide STP TB goal of 85%). A total of 337 People Leaving With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were diagnosed and treated for TB and 848 PLWHA have been provided with Isoniazid (INH) prophylaxis in one of the 1,033 health facilities nationwide currently providing DOTs treatment. Improving the quality of obstetric care has been a critical component of USAID's program given: the high maternal mortality rate (159 per 100,000 live births); the disproportionately high rate of cesarean births (42%, according 2007 DHS); and that over 95% of births take place in a hospital setting.

The Emergency Obstetric Care strategy introduced by USAID has been adopted by the GODR as a national strategy. Vaccination coverage, an MCC indicator, continues to be low. According to the 2007 DHS vaccination coverage for DPT3 is 74.3% and for all the vaccines 52.9%. Coverage rates for Region V where USAID has concentrated its assistance coverage rates are 83.6% and 56.7% for DPT3 and all the vaccines respectively. Equitable access to quality health services is the goal of the health reforms in process. To date the GODR has enrolled approximately 1.2 million poor Dominicans under the subsidized family health insurance. The management and quality improvements reached by the 14 hospitals in the eastern region of the country with USAID assistance have been recognized by the GODR and several of the management tools have been adopted to be implemented nationwide.

The very nature of the program means that gender issues are addressed, both for women as well as for men. Reproductive health, maternal and child health, TB and HIV activities involve, directly or indirectly (in the case of maternal health), both men and women.

The health program met or exceeded the majority of the targets set for FY08 as presented below under each of the program elements. Certain HIV/AIDS targets were not met. In some cases, the shortfalls are due to external causes out of the control of USAID. Two natural disasters, Tropical storms Noel and Olga, disrupted the regular programs in those areas since the health organizations focused in responding to the emergencies. This affected the partial targets of the first and second quarters of the FY08. USAID/DR awarded a contract on February 19, 2008 to strengthen HIV/AIDS services in vulnerable populations in Region V and VII and the provinces of Elías Piña and San Juan. Slow start up of the planned activities, especially the NGO grant program, affected the achievement of some HIV/AIDS targets.

### **3.1.1 HIV/AIDS**

Overall, progress has been made in the fight against HIV in the DR, even though only 33% of targets were met or exceeded as a result of various delays in implementing the approved FY07 Mini COP strategy. Clearly, much work remains to be accomplished, as evidenced by 2007 DHS and 2008 Behavioral Surveillance Survey data that reveal certain subgroups, specifically poorly educated women and Batey residents disproportionately contribute to the numbers of persons living with HIV, at 23.7% and 4.5%, respectively.

Several factors adversely impacted program implementation this year, including the four months delay in programming FY07 funds under the Mini-COP. On the positive side, the Dominican Republic was selected as one of the few countries to participate in the HIV Compact partnership program, and the USG agencies in the country are expecting to receive a total of \$17 million in FY08 funds for on-going as well as new HIV activities. OGAC approved the DR concept paper which will enable USAID, CDC, Peace Corps and DOD to actively move forward with the design of a Compact partnership between the USG/DR and the GODR that should be completed by April 2009 (with funds to be received by July/August 2009).

To date, 11,155 adults and 230 children are receiving care through the 67 integrated care units throughout the country. Another 14,427 infected and affected persons and 9,340 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) were provided HIV-related palliative care. USAID/DR and the Clinton Foundation collaborated to identify children born to HIV+ women not detected through PMTCT services. To date, more than 1,300 DNA PCR tests (diagnostic tests for newborns) have been administered; approximately 1,500 children have been identified HIV+ and referred to HIV-related services. Of these newborns, as of September 30, 2008, 795 infants are receiving ARVs treatment with pediatric doses supplied by the Clinton Foundation.

At the community level, as of March 30, 2008, USAID/DR supported more than 20 programs that provide palliative care to more than 13,270 persons. However, as a result of delays in the transition from the old to the new mechanism, bridge grants to local NGOs providing support to 1,157 infected and affected persons were halted for more than approximately four months. The new contractor held the bridge grant-signing ceremony in late October, and the grants have resumed. Support services for OVCs provided through these programs have benefited approximately 9,340 children. Abstinence and behavior change prevention activities were carried out this year targeting more than 20,746 adolescents and youth living in rural communities and bateyes (home to Haitian migrant workers) throughout the DR.

In the meantime the condom social marketing has distributed more than 65 million condoms since its inception in August 2003, through more than 1,000 traditional and non-traditional sales outlets in the country, reaching 70% of the market share.

Based on the data provided by the 131 hospitals that benefit from the technical assistance support the DR has not met targets related to PMTCT and VCT. Analysis of these results indicates that only 80% of the 131 PMTCT sites report on a regular basis, and of those sites that routinely report, CDC estimates that 50% underreport. At the national level, of the expected 2,784 pregnant women (national target at PMTCT services), only 1,467 (52%) were detected as HIV-positive; 40.9% of the targeted 80% of the women received a complete course of ARVs; and only 1,281 (of the 1,467 HIV positive women detected in PMPCT services) were provided with a complete course of ARV prophylaxis therapy to prevent mother to child transmission. The reasons for these low results are that PMTCT and VCT services are remain weak due to limited health systems, lack of inclusion of HIV/AIDS services in health sector reforms, lack or delay in delivery of lab results, lack of funds to pay for lab tests, fear of disclosure, and significant stigma and discrimination. All These issues are addressed in the FY08 Mini-Country Operational Plan.

**ALL INDICATORS ARE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF THE GLOBAL AIDS COORDINATOR**

### **3.1.2 Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis remains a significant challenge in the DR with prevalence of multi-drug-resistance (MDR) TB being one of the highest in the region, and with 9% of TB-HIV co-infection among TB patients. The results of a recent study show that, in three DR prisons, the prevalence was more than 1,500 per 100,000 as compared to 85 per 100,000 in the general population. Both the judicial and health systems are concerned about this. One of our local partners has included a component to address TB in prisons through the 7th round OF Global Fund grants.

The tuberculosis program has met or exceeded its targets related to: TB detection, cure and complementary HIV testing. With USAID assistance, the National TB program has been highly successful in increasing access to DOTS, which is now available at more than 1,000 service centers (representing 85% of all service centers), an increase of more than 10% over last year. The treatment success rate was 86.8% of TB patients receiving DOTS, exceeding the Stop TB World target (85%). TB detection rate of new smear positive patients was 90.8%, also exceeding the FY08 target (75%). The National TB Reference Laboratory continues to provide support and quality control to a TB network of 8 regional labs and approximately 164 provincial and local labs. Approximately 155,143 TB tests were made last year. This represents a slight reduction (19%) from the previous year (189,692); 498 cultures were also processed through the laboratory network. The MDR Treatment Unit, established last year, provided in-patient treatment to more than 100 patients; however the capacity of the hospital is not sufficient to respond to the needs. A new TB MDR unit is ready and scheduled to open in another provincial hospital in November 2008. This site will offer 20 additional beds for MDR TB patients. The recently concluded external TB CAP evaluation recommended that the country expand treatment to MDR TB patients in order to reduce the backlog of patients awaiting treatment and also to reduce deaths associated with TB MDR, since an estimated 70 MDR TB persons died in 2007.

TB/HIV co-infection, estimated to be around 9%, may be as high as 40% in the northeastern and northwestern portion of the country. Of 337 patients with TB/HIV, 250 had pulmonary TB and 114 received TB treatment. However, 28% died before completion of their treatment indicating that they had been detected too late. More than 848 patients living with HIV received prophylaxis with INH to protect them from TB. The TB program succeeded in providing HIV tests to approx. 31% of those diagnosed with TB exceeding the 9% target. As of FY 2008, the HIV/TB component will be co-funded with HIV/AIDS funds.

The DR and Haiti continue to advance on the work defined in the Bi-National Agreement signed in 2005. A Bi-National card has been printed and distributed. The GODR/MOH donated 20,000 cards to Haiti in order to start implementation in the border provinces.

NGOs working on the TB/HIV programs concluded their work as of September 30, 2007. Their activities were evaluated as highly successful by the GODR and by the TB CAP Project evaluators and the pilot project was presented at the 2007 Tuberculosis World Conference.

The centrally funded project, Strengthening Pharmaceutical System (SPSS), is completing the technical support provided to the Ministry of Health in order to improve the conditions of the central warehouse. Future plans are to strengthen the distribution system for the TB drugs and supplies as a pilot project so that other programs, especially HIV/AIDS drugs and supply are integrated into the systems. Also, the country TB's service will be providing single dose treatment to 1,000 people as of December 30, 2008.

Finally, two studies have been undertaken in FY08. The TB-MDR study has almost been completed in spite of the delays caused by the two storms and the transportation of samples to the National Laboratory in Chile for quality control. The second study on actors impeding early detection and provision of lab tests has been completed and presented. The study demonstrates that at least 30% of TB patients go undetected because of loss opportunities in the hospitals out-patient services.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Case notification rate in new sputum smear positive pulmonary TB cases per 100,000 population in USG-supported areas

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
60	91	93	95

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of people trained in DOTS with USG funding

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
25	280	280	290

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Percent of all registered TB patients who are tested for HIV through USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
25	31	32	33

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of institutions with improved Management Information Systems, as a result of USG Assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
14	14	16	18

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**



**Name:** results

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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1	1	1	1
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

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**Name:** Number of special studies

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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2	1	1	1
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Unforeseen country circumstances (natural disaster, political crisis, conflict, etc)

**Explanation:** As of the submission of this report, the second study (TB-MDR) has not been completed due in part to delays caused by the two tropical storms that affected the country and the longer than expected quality control procedure that requires the samples to be sent to Chile's National Lab.

### 3.1.6 Maternal and Child Health

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

All of the targets for this program element have been met or exceeded in spite of the delay in awarding of USAID's new MCH contract, which is expected to be awarded in December 2008 and will assist the GODR in expanding successful models developed under this program element.

The Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) strategy introduced in 7 hospitals (including 2 major maternity hospitals) has resulted in a reduction in delivery complications and maternal mortality. New techniques such as the application of active management of the third stage of labor (AMSTL) are being applied in 91% of all attended births (which is equivalent to 11,080 deliveries in the first 6 months of the FY). This indicates that the target of 20,000 deliveries will be met or exceeded by the end of September. The MOH has adopted the EOC strategy at the national level and is gradually rolling out the strategy to hospitals nationwide. Newborn mortality continues to be responsible for over 60% of the infant mortality rate currently at 32% (2007 DHS). Last year, USAID/DR became one of the participating countries in the BASICS project regional strategy to address newborn health aimed at decreasing the infant mortality rate. The strategy emphasizes improving management of newborn sepsis, the main cause of newborn mortality. During FY08, 35 (30 females and 5 males) medical workers were trained in research techniques, including data collection and data analysis, and 625 health workers (540 female and 85 male) participated in workshop events on prevention of newborn infection in hospitals, facility-level infection prevention standards, essential newborn care and hand washing. By the end of this fiscal year 80% of the observed staff was carrying out sterile delivery practices and the number of diagnosed cases of newborn sepsis continues to decline. The proportion of all hospital admissions due to possible nosocomial infections went from 45% to 10% in two of the participating hospitals. In one hospital, by the end of the third quarter, not a single case of suspected nosocomial newborn sepsis had been identified over the last 7 months.

While assistance has been provided to the program at the national level, USAID's focus has been to strengthen and improve the quality and efficiency of the immunization program in Region V. Based on data from the 2007 DHS, Region V went from having the lowest DTP3 coverage rates in 2002 (48%) to the highest in 2007 (83.6%). The fully vaccination rate in the Region (56.7%) is higher than the national average rate (48%).

Health systems strengthening - USAID has been supporting the GODR's efforts to improve the health system's capacity to respond to the health needs of the most vulnerable populations. These efforts include support to the implementation of a subsidized health social insurance which is aimed at: (1) providing universal health coverage; (2) reducing the out-of-pocket expenditures in health which affects mostly the poor, and; (3) implementation of several management and technical strategies/tools to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of service providers, thereby guaranteeing timely access to quality health care for poor and vulnerable populations. To date over 1 million poor Dominicans have been admitted into the universal health coverage system. For Region V, the percentage of enrollment increased from 46.73% of the total eligible population in 2006 to 66.34% in 2007. Data from public providers in the region show an important increase in the percentage of use of both marker services from 71% in FY02 to 78% in FY08. But also, vaccination coverage in Region V shows important improvements in comparison to the other regions. Both indicators can be used as a proxy to assess the increase of access to services by the poor.

The recently published 2007 DHS reflects the impact of USAID-assisted management and quality improvements in the eastern region. Those living in the region have above the national average access to quality prenatal, delivery and postpartum services.

The most important result achieved under this sub-element has been the improvement in the management capacity and in the quality of service provision in all 14 participating hospitals. The target for the number of institutions with improved management information systems was exceeded by 87% (from 35 to 61), which reflects the fact that improvements have gone beyond Region V. To date, GODR has adopted at least six management tools to be used in all public hospitals nationwide (birth registry, patient registry, referral and

counter-referral, billing, provider certification, supply management).

Finally, results of an equity indicator based on the 2007 DHS database will be available for the annual report, and are expected to show the impact of the reforms in more equitable access to health services and less out-of-pocket expenditures, particularly for those in the lowest socio-economic quintiles.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of antenatal care (ANC) visits by skilled providers from USG-assisted facilities

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
185000	60688	194250	204000

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Delayed start-up of program

**Explanation:** FY 08 was a transition year from the previous MCH Contractor to a new one. The former contractor only worked for six months during last year and this target for 2008 was set under the assumption that a new mechanism would be in place and the start-up would pick up from where the previous contractor ended its work. Due to unforeseen delays, the new contract is not expected to be awarded before mid December 2008.

**Name:** Number of people trained in maternal/newborn health through USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
530	660	560	590

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of women

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
450	570	375	395

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of men

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
140	90	185	195

**Nominated:** No

*Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government*

**Deviation Type:** Other

**Explanation:** Although the aggregated number for this indicator was exceeded by almost 25%. Fewer number of men attended the training than expected due in part at the composition of the labor force in the places where the training occurred.

**Name:** Number of women receiving active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL) through USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
20000	22000	21000	22050

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of newborns receiving antibiotic treatment for infection from appropriate health workers through USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
3400	0	0	0

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Change in programming priorities

**Explanation:** Based on the fact that this indicator does not reflect the approach implemented in our activities, the Health Office has decided to drop this indicator. The main focus is preventing the infections among newborns, (0 infections were achieved in some USG-supported health centers) so that the need for antibiotic treatment is reduced.

**Name:** Number of children less than 12 months of age who received DPT3 from USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
23000	23056	24150	25360

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of people covered by USG-supported health financing arrangements

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
1000000	1200000	1200000	1300000

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

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**Name:** Number of institutions with improved Management Information Systems, as a result of  
USG Assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
42	61	44	46

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

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**Name:** Number of special studies

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
0	1	0	0

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

### 3.1.7 Family Planning and Reproductive Health

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

The DR is currently phasing out of its family planning (FP) activities as rates of contraceptive prevalence increase and fertility decrease. Recently published 2007 DHS shows a further decline in the fertility rate, while modern contraceptive prevalence has increased slightly from 70.0 % to 70.1%. However, adolescent pregnancy continues to be a serious problem in the country, at 16.2%, with a significant difference in border provinces. The adolescent pregnancy rate in Azua is 36.9%, and in Pedernales, it is 35.1% among girls 15 – 19 yrs.

A grant awarded to a USAID's key NGO partner will allow dissemination of successful family planning program activities, prioritizing public providers. Through USAID/W mechanisms, USAID/DR provides on-going assistance in contraceptive security. The program has been very successful in strengthening the leadership of the DR's Contraceptive Security Committee, assuring there is a sufficient budget for contraceptive acquisition and distribution. USAID has also sponsored the virtual training of 13 health planners and decision makers in contraceptive security planning and advocacy. USAID contributed to increases in the overall use of family planning methods from 69.8% to 72.9% (DHS 2002/2007). The use of modern contraceptive methods increased during the same period from 65% to 70%, and the total fertility rate declined from 3.0 children per women to 2.4 children. USAID/DR launched 127 family planning training events reaching 3,662 beneficiaries.

One of USAID's most significant family planning contributions is the creation of a national and international advocacy mechanism referred to as DAIA (Contraceptive Security Supply Committee). This Committee is directed by GODR health authorities, and is focused on assuring that the Ministry of Health purchases sufficient quantities of modern family planning contraceptives to satisfy the country's contraceptive needs. The DAIA committee meets monthly at the national level and every two years internationally in countries where USAID is in the process of FP graduation.

Approximately 463 contraceptive providers, 18 health program managers, and 14 national Trainers of trainers (TOT) received training this year. TOT will be able to continue training other health workers. Meanwhile, more than 3,000 information posters, manuals, and FP guidance brochures were distributed nationwide to various health facilities.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Couple years of protection (CYP) in USG-supported programs

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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52000	73682	77000	N/A
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of people trained in FP/RH with USG funds

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
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300	700	300	N/A
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of women

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

180	520	180	N/A
-----	-----	-----	-----

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of men

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

120	240	120	N/A
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**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of counseling visits for Family Planning/Reproductive Health as a result of USG assistance



*Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government*

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
19000	14,753	0	N/A
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	Other		
<b>Explanation:</b>	This indicator was shared between two contractors, one exceeded its target (set at 14,000) while the other, due to the imminent graduation from FP programming, put more attention on the transfer of knowledge and capabilities to Dominican public institutions which will be responsible to carry out this activities once the program phases completely out instead of focusing on counseling visits, thus the indicator fell short of its target.		

**Name:** Number of people that have seen or heard a specific USG-supported FP/RH message

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
35000	15730	0	N/A

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Change in programming priorities

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of policies or guidelines developed or changed with USG assistance to improve access to and use of FP/RH services

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
5	4	1	N/A

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of USG-assisted service delivery points providing FP counseling or services

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
21	20	0	N/A

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

### 3.2 Education

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

FY2008 was a year with important advances for the education sector. A new Secretary of Education was appointed, who is very supportive of USAID's education interventions to improve the quality of education in the Dominican Republic. Coordination among partners and the Secretariat of Education (SEE) has matured and strengthened. Program results from our partners indicate that our interventions are positively impacting the population. USAID continues to support primary level teacher training in mathematics, reading and writing. The SEE has provided resources for the nationwide expansion of the reading and writing program. The commitment of the private sector is evidenced by its continued interest in sponsoring schools and increased funding to pedagogic activities. In FY2008, a new at-risk/out-of-school children and youth program began implementation.

As in previous years, the Dominican Republic did not pass the two education indicators on the annual MCC scorecard. The first indicator, Government Expenditure in Primary Education, was 1.18% of the GDP which is in the 26th percentile. The Dominican Teacher's Labor Union (ADP) and the SEE have voiced their concern with respect to this level of funding. The second indicator, Girls' Primary Education Completion Rate, has decreased and is in the 24th percentile. However, performance data has shown that girls are performing much better than boys in both reading and mathematics. Both the Second Region Comparative and Explanatory Study (SERCE) and USAID on internal evaluation supports this achievement in Latin America and the Caribbean regional level indicated that in third grade mathematics median scores there was a significant differences in favor of girls, likewise, similar results were found in the USAID supported reading and writing schools in which girls performed better than for boys.

### **3.2.1 Basic Education**

Dominican public education is ranked as one of the worst educational systems in the Western Hemisphere and currently does not pass the two MCC indicators for education. To meet these challenges USAID is working to improve the quality of public education through teacher training, school governance, private sector sponsorship and at-risk/out-of-school children and youth programming. Results for FY08 indicate that our program interventions are positively impacting the population. Collaboration and coordination with our partners and the SEE has grown and strengthened during the year. A new Secretary was appointed and has confirmed SEE's continued support and expansion of our programs.

The USAID's math and reading/writing teacher training program has shown continued progress in the second year of implementation. During FY08 1,290 teachers completed training in mathematics, reading and writing, and 359 teachers began their training. In the 2007-2008 school year, 1,649 teachers worked with 86,761 students which exceeded the student target by over 11,000. However, the number of teachers trained fell short by 851 of the targeted 2,500. This is due to a slow start of the reading and writing expansion program where it was necessary to increase the training hours thus delaying the training for 800 teachers. More time was needed to fully train teachers and extend the coaching and mentoring portion of the program. In addition, the reading program trained 253 staff at the central, regional and district level, 79 school administrators, along with 18 trainers of trainers. The impact of the reading and writing program can be demonstrated by the results reported by an external evaluation. The report showed an increase of 22% in student performance in the reading and writing program when compared to 2006 results. The impact of the math program also shows an increase in student performance. There was a 10% increase in fourth grade student math performance in schools participating in the program, when compared with the 2005 baseline. Statistical analysis showed that teacher input is the variable with the highest level of significance. In the math and reading program there were a total of 66,000 textbooks distributed including 25,000 Math books and 41,000 reading books. The reading books were distributed to 500 classrooms which included a newly USAID supported storybook by first through fourth grade students.

USAID continues to pilot the SEE Model of School Management in 5 school districts. Each district is in the process of developing a strategic plan using the SEE's Ten-Year Plan as a framework. In FY08, 468 school administrators and officials were trained in the Model of School Management which surpassed the target by 368. In addition, 28 new Parent and Teacher Associations (PTAs) were integrated and strengthened during FY08. This falls short of the target of 100 and can be contributed in the implementation of the model. The first phase is to train the officials and in the second phase to begin working with parents and communities. It should be noted that the cumulative total to date for integrating and strengthening PTAs is 83 associations.

The public private partnership program continues to engage the private sector in contributing to the improvement of quality education in the public schools. Currently there are 15 companies participating of which five have committed to long term investment and sustainability of the program. In FY08 a total of \$195,000 resources (private sector and matching) were distributed to 14 schools. Recommendations from the FY08 evaluation will be incorporated into the program in order to sustain and expand on the partnerships.

A new learning opportunities program for at-risk and out-of-school children and youth began implementation in May 2008, where three two-year grants were awarded. There are currently over 1,200 youth participating in activities that promote basic education skills, vocational training and life skills training. One of the projects served 831 at-risk children and youth in just four months of implementation which exceeded its target. This project accomplished the following: 167 participated in math and language tutoring programs, 121 began pre-vocational and vocational training courses, 151 received counseling and health services, 286 participated in recreational and cultural activities and 85 youth were reintegrated back in the formal education system. Another project completed a month long summer school camp for 252 participants ranging in ages from 8 to 18. Math and reading assessments were conducted during the camp and showed that no student performed above the fifth grade level in math and only 2% tested at the fifth grade level in reading. Results showed an increase in awareness and acknowledge after the health and skills classes.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of administrators and officials trained

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
100	547	500	600

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of women

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
50			

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of men

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
50			

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of learners enrolled in USG-supported pre-primary schools or equivalent non-school-based settings

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
No Data			

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of women

**Target 2008**      **Result 2008**      **Target 2009**      **Target 2010**

No Data

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of men

**Target 2008**      **Result 2008**      **Target 2009**      **Target 2010**

No Data

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of learners enrolled in USG-supported primary schools or equivalent non-school-based settings

**Target 2008**      **Result 2008**      **Target 2009**      **Target 2010**

75000      86,761      100,000      100,000

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of women

**Target 2008**      **Result 2008**      **Target 2009**      **Target 2010**

37500      41,645

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** number of men

**Target 2008**      **Result 2008**      **Target 2009**      **Target 2010**

37500      45,115

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

**Name:** Number of teachers/educators trained with USG support

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
2500	1,649	2,000	2,500

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Change in programming priorities

**Explanation:** The number of teachers trained fell short by 851 . This is due to a slow start of the reading and writing expansion program where it was necessary to increase the hours of the train the trainers program thus pushing back the training of 800 teachers. It was also identified that there was a need to devote more time to fully train a teacher and extend the coaching and mentoring portion of the program. In addition, the reading program trained 253 staff at the central, regional and district level, 79 school administrators, along with 18 trainers of trainers.

**Name:** Number of Parent-Teacher Association or similar 'school' governance structures supported

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
100	28	50	100

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** New indicator in 2008.

This falls short of the target of 100 and can be contributed in the implementation of the model. The first phase is to train the officials and in the second phase to begin working with parents and communities. It should be noted that the cumulative total to date for integrating and strengthening PTAs is at 83 associations. Targets for FY 2009 and 2010 have been adjusted accordingly.

**Name:** Number of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials provided with USG assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
No Data	66,000	60,000	60,000

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** New indicator for 2008.

**Custom Indicators**

<b>Name:</b>	Percentage on test scores in reading comprehension by students in USG sponsored schools		
<b>Target 2008</b>	<b>Result 2008</b>	<b>Target 2009</b>	<b>Target 2010</b>
0			
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	Percentage on test scores in math by students in USG sponsored schools		
<b>Target 2008</b>	<b>Result 2008</b>	<b>Target 2009</b>	<b>Target 2010</b>
0			
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	Amount of resources (from public and private sources) mobilized to expand USAID/DR's Education Program's impact		
<b>Target 2008</b>	<b>Result 2008</b>	<b>Target 2009</b>	<b>Target 2010</b>
0			
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	Number of at-risk children and youth enrolled in USG supported programs.		
<b>Target 2008</b>	<b>Result 2008</b>	<b>Target 2009</b>	<b>Target 2010</b>
0			
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>			

**4 Economic Growth**



## **4.2 Trade and Investment**

In FY 2008, USAID's trade and investment program made progress in strengthening public and private sector capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. To start with, a critical baseline assessment of the institutional capacity of Dominican organizations to implement CAFTA-DR was completed. The assessment identified technical assistance needs for organizations such as the Directorate of Foreign Trade (DICOEX), the main institution responsible for the administration of CAFTA-DR. USAID coordinated all technical assistance directed at other Dominican government institutions with CAFTA-DR responsibilities through DICOEX. In addition, during the first year, DICOEX increased its ability to contract and make policy recommendations on the implementation of CAFTA-DR with the participation of private firms, business associations, and civil society organizations. DICOEX also drafted a research agenda for CAFTA-DR; designed and put into operation the Strategic Activities Fund to finance studies analyzing the impact of CAFTA-DR through local private consulting firms; created a database of local trade and consulting companies interested in CAFTA-DR; and conducted a benchmark study on policies to improve the business environment in Central American member countries of CAFTA.

A trade and investment enabling environment that supports the effective implementation of CAFTA-DR is moving forward and improving prospects for an established business regulatory framework able to generate broad-based, sustainable economic growth in the Dominican Republic. For example, USAID's target for FY 2008 exceeded expectations from an initial projection of 6 to 11 legal, regulatory, or institutional actions taken to improve the implementation of CAFTA-DR. USAID indicators also track institutional capacity to implement CAFTA-DR; effectiveness of public-private dialogue on CAFTA-DR implementation; and trade readiness measured by country exports as a percentage of GDP. In agriculture, USAID supported several analyses on existing barriers to export meats and the drafting of regulation for meat and meat products exports, as well as sanitary regulations for poultry and poultry products. USAID assisted the Government Procurement Office in drafting manuals and conducting training for government procurement units in compliance with CAFTA-DR. USAID assisted the General Directorate of Customs with the drafting of manuals and procedures for customs management to protect intellectual property rights. USAID assisted the State Secretariat for Public Health and Social Assistance with the management of pharmaceutical data protection through the introduction of an Automated System to Register Pharmaceuticals

During FY 2008, the challenge of identifying priority institutions to receive technical assistance was resolved by the completion of the baseline assessment, which identified 16 institutions, including the Office of Agricultural Trade Agreements (OTCA) and the State Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA), among others. Eight of the 16 institutions have developed action plans to enhance organizational capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. USAID cooperates very closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative on the implementation of the agriculture provisions of CAFTA-DR by the Secretaries of Agriculture (SEA) and Health (SESPAS).

Gender factors are critical to the success of USAID's trade and investment program. Women play a strategic part in strengthening stakeholders' awareness on CAFTA-DR and improving dialogue between the public and private sectors regarding successful CAFTA-DR implementation. During FY 2008, USAID trained 1,889 people (659 or 35% women) in the course of 43 seminars on CAFTA-DR implementation. Accomplishments to date demonstrate that the Dominican public and private sectors are committed to meeting trade obligations under CAFTA-DR. This level of Dominican engagement in CAFTA-DR implementation helps the country advance toward sustainable and competitive economic growth and brings the country closer to the next category of transforming nation status in partnership with the USG and other host countries in the global arena.

#### **4.2.1 Trade and Investment Enabling Environment**

In FY 2008, USAID's trade and investment program made progress in strengthening public and private sector capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. To start with, a critical baseline assessment of the institutional capacity of Dominican organizations to implement CAFTA-DR was completed. The assessment identified technical assistance needs for organizations such as the Directorate of Foreign Trade (DICOEX), the main institution responsible for the administration of CAFTA-DR. USAID coordinated all technical assistance directed at other Dominican government institutions with CAFTA-DR responsibilities through DICOEX. In addition, during the first year, DICOEX increased its ability to contract and make policy recommendations on the implementation of CAFTA-DR with the participation of private firms, business associations, and civil society organizations. DICOEX also drafted a research agenda for CAFTA-DR; designed and put into operation the Strategic Activities Fund to finance studies analyzing the impact of CAFTA-DR through local private consulting firms; created a database of local trade and consulting companies interested in CAFTA-DR; and conducted a benchmark study on policies to improve the business environment in Central American member countries of CAFTA.

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## Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of legal, regulatory, or institutional actions (not mentioned above) taken to improve implementation or compliance with international trade and investment agreements due to support from USG-assisted organizations

<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
6	11	6	6

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:**

### 4.4 Infrastructure

USAID's five-year program, Implementation of the National Rural Electrification Plan (IPNER), managed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) ended September 30, 2008. USAID technical assistance helped increase access to reliable electricity for low-income Dominicans living in rural areas and established a sustainable electricity program for these groups. At the end of FY 2008, the number of people with increased access to modern energy services through USAID's program was 44,070 and a total of 15 electricity-related public-private partnerships were formed. USAID implemented the Residential Energy Efficiency program from March through May 2008. Training-of-trainers' courses on home energy audits, meter reading, and compact fluorescent light bulbs were conducted in seven Dominican rural towns. One-hundred and twenty-seven people were trained on residential energy efficiency. Households were also given residential high efficiency appliances with USAID assistance.

Unfortunately, USAID's goal of obtaining electricity materials from the state-owned Electricity Corporation (CDEEE) to construct the Fronteriza electricity power system that was to be operated by the Electricity Cooperative in Matas de Farfan (CEF) did not materialize because CDEEE did not honor its contract. Soon after the agreement with the Fronteriza Project ended, USAID concentrated on expanding small-scale renewable energy projects in the rural sector with remaining FY 2008 funds. To date 10 projects have been identified. USAID results are documented in two NRECA reports, one for rural grid-connected projects and the other for micro-hydro projects. These reports are being reviewed internally within USAID and by other donors to see if there are opportunities for financing these projects. USAID procured electric distribution materials for 15 micro-hydro distribution mini-grids and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Juntayaque Agricultural Producers Group and the Small Grants Program of the United Nations to implement a micro-hydro electric generation system in the Central mountain region of the country.

#### 4.4.1 Modern Energy Services

USAID's five-year program, Implementation of the National Rural Electrification Plan (IPNER), managed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) ended September 30, 2008. USAID technical assistance helped increase access to reliable electricity for low-income Dominicans living in rural areas and established a sustainable electricity program for these groups. At the end of FY 2008, the number of people with increased access to modern energy services through USAID's program was 44,070 and a total of 15 electricity-related public-private partnerships were formed. USAID implemented the Residential Energy Efficiency program from March through May 2008. Training-of-trainers' courses on home energy audits, meter reading, and compact fluorescent light bulbs were conducted in seven Dominican rural towns. One-hundred and twenty-seven people were trained on residential energy efficiency. Households were also given residential high efficiency appliances with USAID assistance.

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#### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of people with increased access to modern energy services as a result of USG assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
50000	44070		

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** Unforeseen country circumstances (natural disaster, political crisis, conflict, etc)

**Explanation:** USAID's five-year program, Implementation of the National Rural Electrification Plan (IPNER), managed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) ended September 30, 2008.

At the end of FY 2008, the number of people with increased access to modern energy services through USAID's program was 44,070 and a total of 15 electricity-related public-private partnerships were formed.

This indicator fell short of its target due to the state-owned electricity corporation's failure to support its commitment to the rural electric cooperative established by NRECA.

#### 4.5 Agriculture

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

USAID assistance to Dominican small farm producers is helping to diversify production and improve competitiveness in global markets. In FY 2008, USAID support to small producers and processors of agricultural and wood products focused on increasing income through opportunities created by CAFTA-DR and USAID initiatives to provide access to credit, small grants funding, and technical assistance. Since February 2008, USAID has integrated 19 agricultural and wood product clusters into its Rural Economic Diversification (RED) technical assistance program. The clusters specialize in improving the productivity and quality of regular and organic coffee, organic bananas, avocado, cassava, cocoa, mango, pineapple, oriental vegetables, and wood furniture. USAID established a small grants fund to co-finance small projects for the clusters, along with a \$10 million Development Credit Authority (DCA) loan guarantee program with ADEMI Bank (a leading Dominican micro-finance institution) to improve access to credit for small farmers, processors and buyers.

USAID is helping to build agriculture sector capacity to a level where small Dominican producers, including women producers, are able to diversify and develop niche products that can compete in the global markets and increase their incomes. A case in point is a USAID-supported women's association, Fundacion Agricultura y Medio Ambiente (FAMA) in Bani, which processes dried fruits for the local market utilizing solar energy and fresh fruit from the region's mango cluster. FAMA is presently testing the viability of exporting to a niche market in New York City. Similarly, mango farmer Adalberto Garcia increased family income by more than 40% by implementing improved pruning, pest management, and post harvest techniques introduced through technical assistance from USAID. These success stories are concrete examples of how USAID support is making a difference and exemplify the kinds of results burgeoning in the 19 agricultural and wood product clusters.

In FY 2008, the start-up of the USAID RED Program was hampered by the Dominican election campaign and four tropical storms. Once key staff was hired and the program's outreach to small and medium farmers, farmer organizations, and public institutions began to take shape, program activities have been advancing steadily. There is strong GODR commitment to transforming the agricultural and wood commodity clusters into viable agro-industries that help enhance economic growth in the country and reduce poverty in the Dominican rural sector. Positive results from collaborative efforts among the GODR, USAID, and small producers and processors serve to increase the prospects for the Dominican Republic to move to the next category of transforming nation status in partnership with the USG and other host countries. USAID indicators track program area progress by taking into account technologies being adopted by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and their attainment of product quality certifications; MSME access to credit and opportunities derived from the DCA mechanism; and increased adoption of appropriate environmental management practices.

#### 4.5.2 Agriculture Sector Productivity

The Rural Economic Diversification (RED) Project began operations in February 1, 2008. USAID and the implementing partner, ABT Associates, have determined the following indicator: "Number of farmers, processors, and others who have adopted new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance" is the most appropriate indicator to measure the program's impact.

This means the three indicators initially selected and reported in the FY 2008 Operational Plan will no longer be utilized (the FY 2008 operational plan did not set targets for the indicators). These are:

1. Percent change in value of international exports of targeted agricultural commodities as a result of USG assistance.
2. Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions.
3. Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training.

#### Standard Indicators

<b>Name:</b>	Number of farmers, processors, and others who have adopted new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
No Data		550	750
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	There are no results data available for FY 2008 under the subject indicator because of delays in program implementation of the Rural Economic Diversification (RED) Project.		

#### 4.6 Private Sector Competitiveness

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

In FY 2008, USAID advanced sustainable tourism practices in the Dominican Republic through its support of civil-society-led community based tourism clusters in selected areas, including Jarabacoa, Constanza, Montecristi, Barahona, Pedernales, Samana, Santo Domingo, La Romana-Bayahibe, La Altagracia, and Puerto Plata/Damajagua. While the tourism clusters are at different levels of development, the goal of the clusters is to become financially sustainable tourism destination management organizations. To this end, USAID has been working closely with the Dominican National Competitiveness Council (NCC) to establish a national tourism civil society-led cluster network that moves forward sustainable tourism in the different regions of the country, shapes national tourism policy, provides support to small-scale tourism entrepreneurs, and represents local civil society member institutions to national leaders, donors, and the public. Thus far, the tourism cluster network has forged strategic alliances with key members of the Dominican Congress, city mayors and councils, provincial governors, and the Dominican Federation of Municipalities in pursuit of these goals, reinforcing the government's commitment to sustainable tourism through collaboration with USAID and other development partners. These developments also help to strengthen the Dominican Republic's prospects for achieving transforming nation status. With USAID support, the NCC and the Secretariats of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, and Culture established a sustainable tourism donors' roundtable, which includes the involvement and commitment of major international development partners such as JICA, AECID, GTZ, UNDP, IDB, World Bank, and U.S. Peace Corps. The Roundtable is laboring to create synergies among the different partners and agencies and ensure effective allocation of resources.

USAID through its Dominican Sustainable Tourism Alliance (DSTA) program supported the creation of a Tourism Media Circle to bring awareness about the sustainable tourism clusters. In FY 2008, the Media Circle mobilized the visit of 27 media agents to Constanza's tourist attractions. The media coverage was done in a positive and informative manner. Gender factors are critical to USAID's DSTA program with women engaged in shaping sustainable tourism strategy. In FY 2008, women participated in nine regional strategic planning and stakeholder coordination workshops, consisting of 308 participants of which 101 were women. The workshops mapped sustainable tourism opportunities across the country by identifying over 1,400 natural and cultural resources in distinct regions. The workshops produced valuable documents delineating the tourism context in the regions for use as decision-making tools by stakeholders. Women also engaged in other cluster workshops focused on the principles of co-management of protected areas.

In FY 2008, the Small Grants Program designed to strengthen environmentally sustainable tourism among community-based, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs has been moving slowly primarily because the USAID DSTA program began implementation in May 2008. Fortunately, USAID's agreement with the NGO ALIANZA will help speed up the launch and administration of the co-investment tourism grants. At the same time, tourism clusters seeking sustainability grants are completing their legal registrations in order to qualify for the grants and some innovation grants were disbursed. At present, an initiative to link the Santo Domingo cruise port with ecotourism sites in Monte Plata Province is being considered, as well as nature tourism corridors of Miches-Sabana de la Mar-Hato Mayor. The USAID DSTA program will establish a tourism development credit authority program in FY 2009.

The clusters are presently progressing at varying degrees of development, and while there is a need for increased investment in cluster areas, performance data show FY 2008 targets were exceeded in the majority of indicators, including the number of public-private dialogue mechanisms utilized to promote greater competitiveness and sustainability in the Dominican tourism sector. Other USAID indicators monitoring progress in sustainable tourism practices are financial self-sufficiency of tourism clusters and the number of environmentally sustainable practices and processes being adopted in cluster areas.

#### **4.6.2 Private Sector Capacity**

In FY 2008, USAID advanced sustainable tourism practices in the Dominican Republic through its support of civil-society-led community based tourism clusters in selected areas, including Jarabacoa, Constanza, Montecristi, Barahona, Pedernales, Samana, Santo Domingo, La Romana-Bayahibe, La Altagracia, and Puerto Plata/Damajagua. While the tourism clusters are at different levels of development, the goal of the clusters is to become financially sustainable tourism destination management organizations. To this end, USAID has been working closely with the Dominican National Competitiveness Council (NCC) to establish a national tourism civil society-led cluster network that moves forward sustainable tourism in the different regions of the country, shapes national tourism policy, provides support to small-scale tourism entrepreneurs, and represents local civil society member institutions to national leaders, donors, and the public. Thus far, the tourism cluster network has forged strategic alliances with key members of the Dominican Congress, city mayors and councils, provincial governors, and the Dominican Federation of Municipalities in pursuit of these goals, reinforcing the government's commitment to sustainable tourism through collaboration with USAID and other development partners. These developments also help to strengthen the Dominican Republic's prospects for achieving transforming nation status. With USAID support, the NCC and the Secretariats of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, and Culture established a sustainable tourism donors' roundtable, which includes the involvement and commitment of major international development partners such as JICA, AECID, GTZ, UNDP, IDB, World Bank, and U.S. Peace Corps. The Roundtable is laboring to create synergies among the different partners and agencies and ensure effective allocation of resources.

USAID through its Dominican Sustainable Tourism Alliance (DSTA) program supported the creation of a Tourism Media Circle to bring awareness about the sustainable tourism clusters. In FY 2008, the Media Circle mobilized the visit of 27 media agents to Constanza's tourist attractions. The media coverage was done in a positive and informative manner. Gender factors are critical to USAID's DSTA program with women engaged in shaping sustainable tourism strategy. In FY 2008, women participated in nine regional strategic planning and stakeholder coordination workshops, consisting of 308 participants of which 101 were women. The workshops mapped sustainable tourism opportunities across the country by identifying over 1,400 natural and cultural resources in distinct regions. The workshops produced valuable documents delineating the tourism context in the regions for use as decision-making tools by stakeholders. Women also engaged in other cluster workshops focused on the principles of co-management of protected areas.

In FY 2008, the Small Grants Program designed to strengthen environmentally sustainable tourism among community-based, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs has been moving slowly primarily because the USAID DSTA program began implementation in May 2008. Fortunately, USAID's agreement with the NGO ALIANZA will help speed up the launch and administration of the co-investment tourism grants. At the same time, tourism clusters seeking sustainability grants are completing their legal registrations in order to qualify for the grants and some innovation grants were disbursed. At present, an initiative to link the Santo Domingo cruise port with ecotourism sites in Monte Plata Province is being considered, as well as nature tourism corridors of Miches-Sabana de la Mar-Hato Mayor. The USAID DSTA program will establish a tourism development credit authority program in FY 2009.

The clusters are presently progressing at varying degrees of development, and while there is a need for increased investment in cluster areas, performance data show FY 2008 targets were exceeded in the majority of indicators, including the number of public-private dialogue mechanisms utilized to promote greater competitiveness and sustainability in the Dominican tourism sector. Other USAID indicators monitoring progress in sustainable tourism practices are financial self-sufficiency of tourism clusters and the number of environmentally sustainable practices and processes being adopted in cluster areas.



**Standard Indicators**

<b>Name:</b>	Number of public-private dialogue mechanisms utilized as a result of USG assistance		
<b><u>Target 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Result 2008</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2009</u></b>	<b><u>Target 2010</u></b>
0	17	2	3
<b>Nominated:</b>	No		
<b>Deviation Type:</b>	N/A		
<b>Explanation:</b>	FY 2008 target needs to change from 0 to 14.		

**4.8 Environment**

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

In FY 2008, USAID assistance to the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) and civil society groups contributed to improvements in environmental protection in the DR, enhancing prospects for achieving an environmentally sustainable and competitive economy in the country. Of particular note is SEMARENA's signing of the regulation on environmental enforcement with accompanying instruments for assessing damages and assigning fines for environmental infractions that USAID helped developed. USAID provided environmental enforcement training to SEMARENA and the Environmental Attorney General's Office, and assisted SEMARENA with the preparation of procedures for channeling requests for information and environmental complaints. The Secretariat of Coastal and Marine Resources and other entities with USAID assistance drafted two Laws on Coastal/Marine Resources and Biodiversity, which are presently being reviewed in Congress. The GODR approved the Strategic Plan for the Dominican Biosphere Reserve developed with USAID support.

In FY 2008, USAID supported natural resources and biodiversity activities in several ways, including conducting an analysis on opportunities for expanding the country's organic agriculture industry and holding training workshops for municipal officials on the implementation and enforcement of Municipal Environmental Unit (UGAM) instruments and environmental compliance under Chapter 17 of CAFTA-DR. The municipal environmental ordinances range from noise pollution control, prohibitions against washing vehicles in rivers or beaches, to the control of logging and reforestation promotion. In FY 2008, ten new municipal environmental ordinances were drafted and approved. A strategic work plan for municipalities and UGAMs was drafted along with guidelines on environmental enforcement responsibilities for municipal staff.

During FY 2008, USAID worked closely with farmers in three micro watersheds to establish functioning watershed management committees, which include the participation of women agricultural producers. The micro-watershed management committee Tireo group achieved NGO status. A second micro-watershed plan in Arroyo Avispa, Bonao was completed. Field work on a third micro-watershed in Rio Juma commenced with economic, social, and bio-physical analyses. USAID also supported a major reconstruction watershed activity through a tropical storm recovery grant to rehabilitate a key bridge and protect adjacent stream banks in the Tireo watershed. USAID supported tropical storm recovery projects in 16 other communities affected by storms in the latter part of 2007 and in 2008. While some of these recovery activities were delayed, particularly those involving construction of greenhouses utilizing imported US sourced materials, all have achieved measurable success, and the great majority met or exceeded expectations. Unfortunately, some of the storm affected areas assisted in 2007 were affected again by tropical storms in 2008.

Partner counterpart contributions to USAID programs in FY 2008 were approximately \$250,000 of which \$70,000 represent public-private partnership contributions. The Secretariat of Environment and UGAMs demonstrated high commitment to improving the effectiveness of the country's environmental regulatory regime at the national and local levels. This level of commitment helps move the Dominican Republic to the next category of transforming nation status in partnership with the USG and other host countries in the global arena.

USAID is in the process of contracting a locally-based environmental consortium to assist with the implementation of CAFTA-DR environmental compliance specified in Chapter 17. USAID's work carried out by the USAID IPEP Program was extended to January 31, 2009. USAID is working to ensure a smooth transition to the new Environmental Protection Program (EPP) expected to begin mid-December 2008. This effort will concentrate on strengthening SEMARENA's mandate of enforcing environmental laws and regulations. USAID is also working with Indiana University on a new marine protected areas activity designed to protect the coral reefs and preserve the recently discovered Captain Kidd shipwreck off Catalina Island in the eastern Dominican Republic along with three other underwater preserves in the Dominican Republic. These "Living Underwater Museums" will protect precious corals and other threatened biology in the surrounding reef systems. USAID environmental result indicators measure the progress of improved environmental protection in the DR by looking at the number of public-private partnerships that are put in place to protect the environment;

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

improved biodiversity conservation through community-based management; and increased effectiveness of the environmental regulatory regime at the national and local levels.

#### **4.8.1 Natural Resources and Biodiversity**

***Not for Distribution Outside of the US Government***

In FY 2008, USAID assistance to the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) and civil society groups contributed to improvements in environmental protection in the DR, enhancing prospects for achieving an environmentally sustainable and competitive economy in the country. Of particular note is SEMARENA's signing of the regulation on environmental enforcement with accompanying instruments for assessing damages and assigning fines for environmental infractions that USAID helped developed. USAID provided environmental enforcement training to SEMARENA and the Environmental Attorney General's Office, and assisted SEMARENA with the preparation of procedures for channeling requests for information and environmental complaints. The Secretariat of Coastal and Marine Resources and other entities with USAID assistance drafted two Laws on Coastal/Marine Resources and Biodiversity, which are presently being reviewed in Congress. The GODR approved the Strategic Plan for the Dominican Biosphere Reserve developed with USAID support.

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environment; improved biodiversity conservation through community-based management; and increased effectiveness of the environmental regulatory regime at the national and local levels.

### Standard Indicators

**Name:** Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance.

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
10000		TBD	TBD

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** No indicator results reported for FY 2008. USAID's bilateral CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperative Agreement program entitled Environmental Protection Program is scheduled to begin mid-December 2008. Once signed, targets will be set for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Name:** Number of policies, laws, agreements or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance

<u>Target 2008</u>	<u>Result 2008</u>	<u>Target 2009</u>	<u>Target 2010</u>
10		TBD	TBD

**Nominated:** No

**Deviation Type:** N/A

**Explanation:** No indicator results reported for FY 2008. USAID's bilateral CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperative Agreement program entitled Environmental Protection Program is scheduled to begin mid-December 2008.

### Key Issues

#### Agriculture

The free trade agreement for Central America, the Dominican Republic, and the United States (CAFTA-DR) entered into force in the Dominican Republic on March 1, 2007. USAID supports the effective implementation of all 22 chapters of CAFTA-DR through policy reform and institutional strengthening, including Chapter 17's focus on the environment. These efforts are complimented by USAID support of small farm producers and processors to diversify their production and become more competitive in global markets. Specifically, USAID support of small producers and processors of agricultural and wood products focused on increasing income through opportunities created by CAFTA-DR and USAID initiatives to provide access to credit, small grants funding, and technical assistance. Since February 2008, USAID has integrated 19 agricultural and wood product clusters into its Rural Economic Diversification (RED) technical assistance program. The clusters specialize in improving the productivity and quality of regular and organic coffee, organic bananas, avocado, cassava, cocoa, mango, pineapple, oriental vegetables, and wood furniture. USAID established a small grants fund to co-finance small projects for the clusters, along with a \$10 million Development Credit Authority (DCA) loan guarantee program with ADEMI Bank (a leading Dominican micro-finance institution) to improve access to credit for small farmers, processors and buyers.

USAID is helping to build agriculture sector capacity to a level where small Dominican producers, including women producers, are able to diversify and develop niche products that can compete in the global market and increase incomes. A case in point is a USAID-supported women's association, Fundacion Agricultura y Medio Ambiente (FAMA) in Bani, which processes dried fruits for the local market utilizing solar energy and fresh fruit from the region's mango cluster. FAMA is presently testing the viability of exporting to a niche market in New York City. Similarly, mango farmer Adalberto Garcia increased family income by more than 40% implementing improved pruning, pest management, and post harvest techniques introduced through technical assistance from USAID. These success stories are concrete examples of how USAID support is making a difference and exemplify the kinds of results burgeoning in the 19 USAID-supported agricultural and wood product clusters. There is strong GODR commitment to transforming the commodity clusters into viable agro-industries that help enhance economic growth in the country and reduce poverty in the rural sector of the Dominican Republic.

### **Anti-Corruption**

Across USAID's democracy programs assistance focused on increasing public pressure for government action against corruption and promoting government mechanisms that facilitated transparency and control corruption. USAID assistance increased the capacity of local non-government organizations to conduct oversight and demand transparency in government operations. The La Lucha movement's media campaign sought to expose citizens to specific actions, enshrined in law that they can take to reduce the amount of corruption. USAID assisted three government agencies – the Controller General, the Program for Essential Medicines, and the Directorate General for Public Procurement - as they established Offices for Access to Public Information, based on the model USAID helped to create in the Attorney General's Office. USAID continued support to justice sector institutions as they continued to develop and implement a system of institutional integrity whose principal aim was to control corruption within the justice sector institutions. Press reporters benefited from trainings on conducting investigative journalism. Participación Ciudadana and FINJUS implemented social monitoring activities and produced reports detailing government operations. Local community groups who were beneficiaries of sub grants from the Transparency and Civic Action Program implemented activities such as participation in municipal budget development, municipal planning, oversight of local authorities, and an investigation into how the government's program to provide subsidies to the poor was operating.

### **Central America-Dominican Republic-United States (CAFTA-DR) Free Trade Agreement**

In FY 2008, USAID's trade and investment program made progress in strengthening public and private sector capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. To start with, a critical baseline assessment of the institutional capacity of Dominican organizations to implement CAFTA-DR was completed. The assessment identified technical assistance needs for organizations such as the Directorate of Foreign Trade (DICOEX), the main institution responsible for the administration of CAFTA-DR. USAID coordinated all technical assistance directed at other Dominican government institutions with CAFTA-DR responsibilities through DICOEX. In addition, during the first year, DICOEX increased its ability to contract and make policy recommendations on the implementation of CAFTA-DR with the participation of private firms, business associations, and civil society organizations. DICOEX also drafted a research agenda on CAFTA-DR; designed and put into operation the Strategic Activities Fund to finance studies analyzing the impact of CAFTA-DR through local private consulting firms; created a database of local trade and consulting companies interested in CAFTA-DR; and conducted a benchmark study on policies to improve the business environment in Central American member countries of CAFTA.

A trade and investment enabling environment that supports the effective implementation of CAFTA-DR is moving forward and improving prospects for an established business regulatory framework able to generate broad-based, sustainable economic growth in the Dominican Republic. For example, USAID's target for FY 2008 exceeded expectations from an initial projection of six to 11 legal, regulatory, or institutional actions taken to improve the implementation of CAFTA-DR. USAID indicators also track institutional capacity to implement CAFTA-DR; effectiveness of public-private dialogue on CAFTA-DR implementation; and trade readiness measured by country exports as a percentage of GDP. In agriculture, USAID supported several analyses on existing barriers to export meats and the drafting of regulation for meat and meat products exports, as well as sanitary regulations for poultry and poultry products. USAID assisted the Government Procurement Office in drafting manuals and conducting training for government procurement units in compliance with CAFTA-DR. USAID assisted the General Directorate of Customs with the drafting of manuals and procedures for customs management to protect intellectual property rights. USAID assisted the State Secretariat for Public Health and Social Assistance with the management of pharmaceutical data protection through the introduction of an Automated System to Register Pharmaceuticals.

During FY 2008, the challenge of identifying priority institutions to receive technical assistance was resolved by the completion of the baseline assessment, which identified 16 institutions, including the Office of Agricultural Trade Agreements (OTCA) and the State Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA), among others. Eight of the 16 institutions have developed action plans to enhance organizational capacity to implement CAFTA-DR. USAID cooperates very closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative on the implementation of the agriculture provisions of CAFTA-DR by the Secretaries of Agriculture (SEA) and Health (SESPAS). Gender factors are critical to the success of USAID's trade and investment program. Women play a strategic part in strengthening stakeholders' awareness on CAFTA-DR and improving dialogue between the public and private sectors regarding successful CAFTA-DR implementation. During FY 2008, USAID trained 1,889 people (659 or 35% women) in the course of 43 seminars on CAFTA-DR implementation. Accomplishments to date demonstrate that the Dominican public and private sectors are committed to meeting trade obligations under CAFTA-DR.

#### **Civil Society and Community Mobilization**



USAID/DR supported the strengthening of civil society through the majority of its funding mechanisms. Specifically, a key component of USAID's assistance provided to Participación Ciudadana aimed to develop their capacity to ensure their financial sustainability through the development of a variety of income-generating activities. Through its Transparency and Citizen Action program, USAID encouraged the formation of coalitions and networks to take actions to fight against corruption, including support a mass media campaign. Support for La Lucha increased from just 35 civil society organizations to over 200. La Lucha made important advances taking steps to achieve formal recognition, which they should have by the end of the calendar year. Support for La Lucha is expected to continue under USAID's new civil society program. USAID's training program for young political leaders includes representatives of civil society organizations and established links between civil society organizations and political party leaders that civil society leaders will be able to utilize in the future when pressing for policies and reforms that address their interests. Civil society organizations were also involved in developing the norms for citizen participation in municipal decision-making, thus strengthening their ties at the local level.

**ENVIRONMENT: Biodiversity**

In FY 2008, USAID assistance to the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) and civil society groups contributed to improvements in environmental protection in the DR, enhancing prospects for achieving an environmentally sustainable and competitive economy in the country. Of particular note is SEMARENA's signing of the regulation on environmental enforcement with accompanying instruments for assessing damages and assigning fines for environmental infractions that USAID helped developed. USAID provided environmental enforcement training to SEMARENA and the Environmental Attorney General's Office, and assisted SEMARENA with the preparation of procedures for channeling requests for information and environmental complaints. The Secretariat of Coastal and Marine Resources and other entities with USAID assistance drafted two Laws on Coastal/Marine Resources and Biodiversity, which are presently being reviewed in Congress. The GODR approved the Strategic Plan for the Dominican Biosphere Reserve developed with USAID support.

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### **Trade Capacity Building**

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Trade Capacity Building (TCB) initiatives draw from USAID's economic growth programs, which directly or indirectly enhance sustainable growth in international trade in goods and services for the Dominican Republic. In FY 2008, USAID received \$10 million under the Portman-Bingaman earmark to carry out a rural adjustment program in the Dominican Republic to help advance the implementation of CAFTA-DR. The earmark is aimed at strengthening Dominican capacity to comply with CAFTA-DR obligations and positioning the Dominican Republic to qualify for a MCC compact. The Dominican Republic is one of two CAFTA-DR member countries which have not met MCC compact criteria. In FY 2008, USAID also received \$1.15 million for an environmental program to support the Dominican government's effort to enforce environmental laws and regulations. This is a separate Portman-Bingaman regional set-aside earmark for environmental and labor rights programs for CAFTA-DR countries.

All of the Portman-Bingaman funds allocated to the USAID/Dominican Republic were directed to TCB programs, such as the CAFTA-DR Implementation Project, Rural Electrification (IPNER) Program, Rural Economic Diversification (RED) Program, Dominican Sustainable Tourism Alliance Program (DSTA), and Improving Policies for Environmental Protection (IPEP) Program. The CAFTA-DR Implementation Program strengthens public and private sector capacity to implement the trade agreement. The IPNER, RED and DSTA programs contribute to rural economic diversification in the country and focus on increasing rural incomes and employment. The RED and DSTA programs started implementation in the second and third quarters of FY 2008, respectively. Both programs are beginning to positively impact private sector investment and employment in the rural sector. The five-year IPNER project ended in September 2008. The rural electrification program using small-scale renewable energy sources is continuing with P.L. 480 funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The RED Program is also exploring the possibility of adopting small-scale rural electrification programs such as the ones implemented through IPNER.

In FY 2008, the IPEP project supported the Dominican Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) with the establishment of the Department of Trade and Environment within SEMARENA's Planning Office. The Department is now the focal point for enforcing the environmental chapter (Chapter 17) of CAFTA-DR; developing a national environmental action plan for CAFTA-DR assistance; and channeling technical assistance of the various U.S. Government environmental agencies and NGOs receiving CAFTA-DR environmental funds to work in the Dominican Republic. Finally, IPEP is providing course materials offered at the centralized level by the U.S. Government environmental agencies to the local levels of municipalities, community based organizations, and the private business sector. Consequently, the movement to protect the environment and biodiversity in the Dominican Republic is growing as more Dominicans are becoming aware of the problems that pollution and the degradation of natural resources have on health and economic welfare.

## Supplementary Questions

### Biodiversity

*The activity must have an explicit biodiversity objective; it is not enough to have biodiversity conservation result as a positive externality from another program. What is/are the biodiversity objective(s)?*

The objective of biodiversity activities is to strengthen the Dominican Government's capacity to create, implement, and enforce environmental policies for sustained environmental protection with an emphasis at the municipal level. In FY 2008, USAID assistance to the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) and civil society groups contributed to improvements in environmental protection in the DR, enhancing prospects for achieving an environmentally sustainable and competitive economy in the country. Of particular note is SEMARENA's signing of the regulation on environmental enforcement with accompanying instruments for assessing damages and assigning fines for environmental infractions that USAID helped developed. USAID provided environmental enforcement training to SEMARENA and the Environmental Attorney General's Office, and assisted SEMARENA with the preparation of procedures for channeling requests for information and environmental complaints. The Secretariat of Coastal and Marine Resources and other entities with USAID assistance drafted two Laws on Coastal/Marine Resources and Biodiversity, which are presently being reviewed in Congress. The GODR approved the Strategic Plan for the Dominican Biosphere Reserve developed with USAID support.

*Activities must be identified based on an analysis of threats to biodiversity. What analysis was used, what threats were identified, and how will activities address the identified threats?*

Activities are aimed at establishing a framework for protecting the diverse marine and coastal ecosystems identified as at-risk. To this effect, the Secretariat of Coastal and Marine Resources and other entities with USAID assistance drafted two Laws on Coastal/Marine Resources and Biodiversity, which are presently being reviewed in Congress. The GODR approved the Strategic Plan for the Dominican Biosphere Reserve developed with USAID support.

In FY 2008, USAID also supported natural resources and biodiversity activities in several ways, including conducting an analysis on opportunities for expanding the country's organic agriculture industry and holding training workshops for municipal officials on the implementation and enforcement of Municipal Environmental Unit (UGAM) instruments and environmental compliance under Chapter 17 of CAFTA-DR. The municipal environmental ordinances range from noise pollution control, prohibitions against washing vehicles in rivers or beaches, to the control of logging and reforestation promotion. In FY 2008, ten new municipal environmental ordinances were drafted and approved. A strategic work plan for municipalities and UGAMs was drafted along with guidelines on environmental enforcement responsibilities for municipal staff.

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*The activity must monitor associated indicators for biodiversity conservation. What indicators will be monitored and how?*

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*Site-based programs must have the intent to positively impact biodiversity in biologically significant areas. Where are programs located (e.g. national park, marine sanctuary, periphery to a park) and, if not obvious, why are the areas biologically significant (e.g. migratory corridor, part of the range of an endangered species, etc.)?*

USAID is in the process of contracting a locally-based environmental consortium to assist with the implementation of CAFTA-DR environmental compliance specified in Chapter 17. This program will work to positively impact biodiversity in biologically significant areas such as land and marine sanctuaries. For example, USAID is also working with Indiana University on a new marine protected areas activity designed to protect the coral reefs and preserve the recently discovered Captain Kidd shipwreck off Catalina Island in the eastern Dominican Republic along with three other underwater preserves in the Dominican Republic. These "Living Underwater Museums" will protect precious corals and other threatened biology in the surrounding reef systems.

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## **Global Climate Change**

*For OU's that reported against the GCC key issue please describe how your program meets the definition and earmark criteria for Global Climate Change programs as defined in Annex VIII.*

## **Water Key Issue**

For OU's that reported against any of the water related Key Issues please describe how your program meets the definition and earmark criteria for water activities as defined in Annex VIII.

**Support Documents**

Disability Plan USAID DR.doc

**Support Documents**

Dominican Republic EvaluationTemplate-12-08.xls

**Support Documents**

2008 DR Environ Compliance 12-08.XLS

**Support Documents**

DR endorsement memo PPR 2008.pdf